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CC: "Bobbi Bryant" <broncobobbi@gmail.com>
Date: 6/20/2008 6:36 PM
Subject: Alton Coal Mine Project

Hi,

We were at the meeting regarding the Alton coal mine and were told that final comments must be submitted by today so here they are:

The Coal Rules require that the Division consider the impacts of hauling coal through Panguitch and Alton.

The Utah Coal Rules are clear that in addition to considering the impacts of coal mining and reclamation operations to the permit area, the Division must give equal and full treatment to the "adjacent area": – "the area outside the permit area where a resource or resources, determined according to the context in which adjacent area is used, are or reasonably could be expected to be adversely impacted by proposed coal mining and reclamation operations." Utah Admin. Rule 645-100-200. In its current iteration, the Permit Application wholly fails to consider or often fails to even mention project impacts to the adjacent area in the following sections, though it must do so: cultural and historic resources information, Utah Admin. Rule 645-301-411.140) an denvironmental description, including socio-economics of the adjacent area Utah Admin Rule 645-301-411.130.

We request that these rules and regulations be adhered to without exception. It is a legal obligation.

It is our understanding that little, if any of the coal extracted will be used within the United States. In fact, it is going to China. Is this true?

How many jobs and what kind of jobs will be available to local residents in Alton and nearby communities?

Was an environmental impact statement completed at the state or federal level and if so where can a copy of the statement be obtained? Included in this would be any archeological impact statement(s).

This statement was taken from the Sierra Club website regarding coal mining:

Coal mining -- the extraction of coal by surface mining or deep mining methods -- has often proved to be an unacceptable activity under past and present practices. Mining has caused and continues to cause serious and extensive environmental damage, including pollution of water, depletion of water supply, destruction of land, harm to health and safety, and the serious disruption of community life.

Not only has mining destroyed thousands of miles of streams and thousands of acres of land, but the damage caused by mining is often irreparable. In addition, present mining policies result in the elimination of a nonrenewable resource without proper consideration of alternative renewable and nonpolluting energy sources and energy conservation.

Lastly we would like to make a few comments regarding the farce that was called the Alton meeting this past Monday, June 16th. It was obvious that the entire meeting was orchestrated and under control of parties in favor of the coal mine for the benefit of the company and its corporate connections. The facts cannot be erased. This is occurring at the time that the Bush administration is due to leave office and this is a part of its overall agenda. This administrations record on environmental issues stands for itself. Nothing has been done, even at this level to abate this nations co-dependence on fossil fuels and the subsequent global warming that derives from its use. Therefore there is a movement to stop the kinds of acts which are represented by projects such as the Alton coal mine.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Luella McMahan